

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/NE:SPDAWKINS:BAS

APPROVED BY D - MR. RUSH

EUR/NE - MR. BUELL

EUR:WSTABLER

S/S:MR. LUERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 099394

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EI EEC UK (NI)

SUBJECT- IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER CALLS ON ACTING SECRETARY

1. IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER DR. GARRET FITZGERALD CALLED MAY 8 ON ACTING SECRETARY RUSH. IRISH AMBASSADOR AND DCM, AMBASSADOR MOORE AND IRISH DESK OFFICER ACCOMPANIED.

2. ACTING SECRETARY RUSH WELCOMED FITZGERALD AND REGRETTED ABSENCE OF SECRETARY WHO HAD VERY MUCH WANTED TO MEET WITH HIM. FITZGERALD IMMEDIATELY RAISED ISSUE OF SUPPORT FOR IRA BY US CITIZENS. EXPLAINING THAT GOI WAS GRATEFUL FOR WHAT USG HAD ALREADY DONE TO SUPPRESS FLOW OF GUNS AND MONEY FROM US TO IRA, FITZGERALD SAID AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR TERRORISM IN IRELAND WAS SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR HIS GOVERNMENT. RUSH SAID USG WAS DOING BEST IT COULD, HAD
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WON 6 CONVICTIONS IN IRA-RELATED GUN RUNNING CASES AND

REGRETTED CONTINUING PROBLEMS. USG WOULD, HOWEVER, BE BETTER ABLE TO ACT IF WE RECEIVED INTELLIGENCE FROM IRISH POLICE. FITZGERALD AGREED TO LOOK INTO THIS UPON RETURN TO DUBLIN.

3. FITZGERALD SAID SITUATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND WAS IMPROVING; THAT HE SAW EYE-TO-EYE WITH BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN ON NORTHERN IRELAND POLICY; AND THAT ALTHOUGH BRITISH TROOPS WOULD BE WITHDRAWN FROM NORTH EVENTUALLY, TO DO SO NOW WOULD CREATE DANGEROUS VACUUM.

IF SUNNINGDALE COULD BE IMPLEMENTED (NOTE: FITZGERALD DID NOT SAY RATIFIED) AND COUNCIL OF IRELAND ESTABLISHED, THEN NORTHERN PROTESTANTS WOULD PROBABLY COME TO ACCEPT COUNCIL MUCH AS THEY HAD COME TO ACCEPT POWER-SHARING EXECUTIVE.

4. RUSH SAID IRELAND HAD APPARENTLY BENEFITED GREATLY FROM EC MEMBERSHIP. FITZGERALD AGREED, EXPLAINING THAT BRITAIN'S CHEAP FOOD POLICY IN THE PAST HAD RESULTED IN LITTLE GROWTH IN IRISH AGRICULTURE, THE MAINSTAY OF THE IRISH ECONOMY. HIGHER PRICES UNDER THE CAP, HOWEVER, HAD CHANGED THIS AND RESULTED IN BOOST TO IRISH AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMY. IN ADDITION, RECENT NATURAL GAS DISCOVERIES IN IRISH SEA WERE PROMISING AND MIGHT PROVIDE AS MUCH AS 12 OF TOTAL ENERGY REQUIREMENTS BY 1980.

5. RUSH ASKED IF THE EC WOULD EXPAND THE CAP TO SOY-BEANS. FITZGERALD ACKNOWLEDGED HIS GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS WERE DIFFERENT FROM US ON MERITS OF CAP, AND, CHANGING SUBJECT, ADDED THAT UK "RENEGOTIATION" OF ITS EC STATUS POSED SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR IRELAND. MORE THAN ANYBODY ELSE, IRELAND OPPOSED UK WITHDRAWAL FROM EC; BUT, MORE THAN ANYBODY ELSE, IRELAND OPPOSED CONCESSIONS TO UK ON AGRICULTURAL MATTERS. IF UK DID WITHDRAW, FITZGERALD SAID, IRELAND WOULD TRY TO STAY IN EC. MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON TERMS OF TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO, PARTICULARLY SINCE UK WOULD THEN FACE EC'S COMMON EXTERNAL TARIFF AND, IN TURN, WOULD PROBABLY IMPOSE EQUIVALENT TARIFFS AGAINST IRISH GOODS, SOMETHING IRELAND HAD NEVER FACED. NEVER-CONFIDENTIAL

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THELESS, IRELAND WOULD PROBABLY REMAIN WITHIN EC, SAID FITZGERALD. RUSH SAID HE THOUGHT UK WAS NOW MORE INTERESTED IN NEGOTIATING ITS PRESENT STATUS WITHIN EC RATHER THAN IN WITHDRAWAL. FITZGERALD AGREED, SAYING THAT BARRING THE UNFORESEEN HE BELIEVED UK WOULD STAY IN EC.

6. FITZGERALD SAID HE WOULD SHORTLY BE MEETING WITH

CONGRESSMEN (REPORTED SEPTEL) TO TRY TO CONVINCE THEM
NOT TO ASSIST IN FLOW OF ARMS AND MONEY TO THE IRA.
RUSH OBSERVED THAT THERE WAS STILL OPPOSITION IN SOME
QUARTERS TO STRICT APPLICATION OF LAWS COVERING SUCH
ACTIVITIES AND THE MINISTER'S EFFORTS MIGHT PROVE
HELPFUL. RUSH

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